

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/710,267
Docket No.: 13435-US-PA

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding nonfinal Office Action mailed April 28, 2006. Applicant has amended claims 8 and 12 based on paragraph [0037] of the specification, and claims 9-11 have been canceled. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims 8 and 12 are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-7 were allowed, for which courtesy the Examiner is thanked. Applicant submits that claims 1-7 remain unchanged, and the allowability thereto should be sustained.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 8, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wortman et al. US Patent 6,447,135 (hereinafter Wortman).

In response to the rejection to claims 8, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wortman, Applicant hereby amends claim 8 and otherwise respectfully traverses this rejection. As such, Applicant submits that amended claim 8 is now in condition for allowance.

With respect to amended claim 8:

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Claim 8. A light guide plate, comprising:

a light guide plate body having a light output surface, a bottom surface, at least a light incident surface and a plurality of side surfaces, wherein the light incident surface and the side surfaces are adjacent to and positioned between the bottom surface and the light output surface;
and

a transfer material layer disposed on the bottom surface, wherein the transfer material layer comprises:

a light-scattering patterned layer disposed on the bottom surface; and
a light-reflecting layer disposed over the bottom surface and covering the light-scattering patterned layer, wherein the transfer material layer and the light guide plate body are formed into a unity, and there is substantially no gap between the transfer material layer and the light guide plate body.

Applicant submits that such a light guide plate as set forth in claim 8 is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by Wortman or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination.

The specification of this application described that "The transfer material layer 210a is at least transferred on the bottom surface S5." and "The light-scattering patterned layer 212 and the light-reflecting layer 214 can be transferred on the bottom surface S5" (Paragraph [0037]). Based on the Paragraph [0037] and Fig. 6, Applicant amend claim 8 as set forth, no

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new matter added. Wortman teaches "A pattern of adhesive 78 is formed, such as by pattern transfer, onto the reflector 76," (Column 5, lines 19-20), "A light ray 79 from the light source 62 encountering the adhesive 78 is diffusely reflected and extracted from the lightguide 68." (Column 5, lines 24-26), and "the pattern of adhesive 78 may be formed on the lightguide 68." (Column 5, lines 28-29). However, in amended claim 8 of this application, the transfer material layer comprises the light-scattering patterned layer and the light-reflecting layer. Moreover, both of the light-scattering patterned layer and the light-reflecting layer are transferred on the bottom surface of the light guide plate body simultaneously. Applicant submits that Wortman fails to disclose, teach or suggest said features which are required for the light guide plate as amended claim 8 (emphasis added). Therefore, amended claim 8 should not be considered as being anticipated by Wortman or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination.

Accordingly, the present invention as set forth in amended claim 8 should not be considered as being anticipated by Wortman, and amended claim 8 should be allowable.

The Office Action also rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wortman in view of Wimberger-Friedl US Patent 5,845,035 (hereinafter Wimberger-Friedl).

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Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wortman in view of Wimberger-Friedl because a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established by the Office Action.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), each of three requirements must be met. First, the reference or references, taken alone or combined, must teach or suggest each and every element in the claims. Second, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skilled in the art, to combine the references in a manner resulting in the claimed invention. Third, a reasonable expectation of success must exist. Moreover, each of the three requirements must "be found in the prior art, and not be based on applicant's disclosure." See M.P.E.P. 2143, 8th ed., February 2003.

As described in the above discussion, Wortman fails to disclose, teach or suggest that: the transfer material layer comprises the light-scattering patterned layer and the light-reflecting layer; and the light-reflecting layer transferred on the bottom surface of the light guide plate body covers the light-scattering patterned layer. Meanwhile, Wimberger-Friedl fails to disclose, teach or suggest the same features. Therefore, Applicants submits a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established by the Office Action since not each and every element in claim 12 has been taught or suggested by Wortman and Wimberger-Friedl.

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Accordingly, the present invention as set forth in amended claim 12 should not be considered as unpatentable over Wortman in view of Wimberger-Friedl, and amended claim 12 should be allowable.

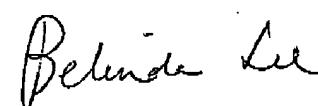
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all pending claims 1-7, 8 and 12 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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